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Christmas countdown

News in brief

Houses to be used for fire training

Romulus City Council members voted recently to suspend demolition permit fees on three blighted homes in favor of using them for firefighter training, before they meet the wrecking ball.

The homes are all single-family structures deemed uninhabitable by city code officials.

Firefighters engage in training periodically to make sure their skills are up-to-date.

The homes are located at 35693 Herman St., 35840 Bibbins Road, and 6904 Homefield St.

The properties will be used until the training cycle has concluded.

City firefighters get pension upgrade

A previously agreed upon pension upgrade for the International Association of Firefighters contract for the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2009 was accepted by members of the romulus City Council.

The upgrade to the departments MERS (Michigan Employees Retirement System) plan will increase the current multiplier from 2.25 percent to 3 percent.

Employee contributions will increase to 5 percent.

The agreement was reached several years ago. However, the city council had to accept it by vote to make it effective.

All of the changes will go into effect Jan. 1, 2009.

Bill preventing deed fraud approved

A bill sponsored by State Sen. Tupac Hunter (D-Detroit) will close a loophole that allows for con artists to perpetuate mortgage scams.

The Michigan House of Representatives has given final approval to Senate Bill 927, which will now go to Gov. Jennifer Granholm to be signed into law.

The bill will improve the process by which county registrar of deeds offices log deed information. Currently, they have to physically log information into an entry book.

This method, and the volume of deeds coming into these offices, has created loopholes for con artists, and backlogs for registrars.

Wayne County at one time had a four to six month backlog of deeds. Hunter said this helped to facilitate mortgage scams, which have grown from nine cases in 1997 to 1,431

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Briefs, page 4

Officials worry about auto loan fallout

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Harsh words permeated Romulus City Hall after it was learned the U.S. Senate did not approve a measure that would have provided \$14 billion to the Big 3 automakers last week.

Romulus, which is home to one of GM's biggest engine assembly facilities on Ecorse Road, would be severely affected if GM were allowed to fail, said Mayor Alan Lambert.

"When I heard the bill was not approved, I was very upset," he said. "What really makes me angry is that it seems to be an anti-Michigan attitude - (the government) bailed out banks and everyone else, but there's nothing for a major industry that employs thousands of people."

GM Powertrain Romulus Engine employs approximately 1,000 people. The plant produces a variety of V-6 and V-8 engines that power GM full-size SUVs and pickups. More than 928,000 engines were produced in the 2007 calendar year, according to numbers provided by the

automaker.

The plant is also responsible for paying about \$5.5 million in property and other taxes to the city and schools, which helps defray the cost of services to residents, according to Julie Albert, the city assessor.

"They have a research and development facility adjacent to the engine facility, and an hanger at the airport," she said.

Lambert said it's impossible to know how many residents of the city work for GM, but he said he's inclined to believe the effect would be immediately noticeable to officials and residents.

"We have a lot riding on the automotive industry, but it's not just us," he said. "The ripple effect would be felt throughout the entire nation."

Without the loans, according to the Big 3 companies and economists, the corporations may be forced to file for bankruptcy and leave more than 3 million employees across the country—including tens of thousands in Michigan—in danger of losing their jobs.

The automakers made their second trip to Washington two weeks ago to plead their case for a bridge loan to help them maintain operations for several months. However, an initiative that would have provided \$14 billion in emergency aid was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives, but failed to garner the 60 votes necessary for approval in the Senate.

Representatives for President George W. Bush have said they would not allow the domestic automakers to fail, and it is expected that aid will be provided by the White House from the \$700 billion fund that was earmarked to bail out the banking industry.

The failure of the bridge loan was largely due to a lack of support from southern Republican lawmakers with an interest in the continued viability of the foreign automakers.

Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn) said he believed the industry failure - if the White House does not step in soon - would be devastat-

See Loan, page 4

Company gets tax break

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus City Council members granted something unprecedented in the city—an extension of an existing tax abatement.

Kerr Corp., a manufacturer of industrial fluids used in the medical and dental field, originally appeared in front of the council Dec. 8 to request that a seven-year industrial facilities exemption be extended to 12 years, the maximum amount of time allowed by state law.

However, the company realized late in the game that the abatement was about to expire, and needed council approval to meet end-of-the-year state deadlines.

”

They had a special meeting to accommodate Kerr, and I think they wisely chose to give them the break.

Tim Keyes



Good fellows

The Romulus Goodfellows once again reached out to help those less fortunate this holiday season. Mayor Alan Lambert, with help from Fire Chief David Allison, delivers a food box to Barbara Blackford at the Romulus Towers. Blackford is just one of the many seniors who received a box of food from the Romulus Goodfellows.

City wants say in airport development

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The much talked about but not yet realized "Airport City" is something that could develop under the auspices of Wayne County, but Romulus officials want to ensure they have some input into the proposed development within their borders.

A study session will take place at Romulus City Hall at 6 p.m. Jan. 5 in an effort to see that the city has some influence as to the businesses that go into the aerropolis, where the buildings will be erected and how they will fit into the business landscape already in place in Romulus.

The city requested the meeting several weeks ago.

"Anything that goes into our city, we want to be involved in," said Mayor Alan Lambert. "The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update about what's going

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update about what's going on regarding this project, and to learn more about what we need to do.

Mayor Alan Lambert

on regarding this project, and to learn more about what we need to do."

Lambert also said he believes the county has used a heavy hand with the city in the past, especially when it has concerned the air-

port, and he and the council members expressed a need to nip that possibility in the bud.

"The county has pushed us around, and we're not going to let that happen again," he said.

Will it ever happen?

The aerropolis concept - also called the airport city - is a concept that Wayne County officials hope will rev up the stagnant economy in the area.

The idea is to have a multitude of businesses immediately surrounding the airport - including retail, entertainment, hotels, restaurants, high-tech industrial and office space, and conventional office space.

The concept of an airport city is that by utilizing a major attraction like an airport, the area will be able to diversify by having a competitive environment for busi-

See Airport, page 4

See Kerr, page 4

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Joint meeting proves helpful to civic leaders

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Civic organization and committee members in Belleville got together recently for an official briefing on past and present plans for the community.

Officials said the meeting was planned to discuss past projects by members of the city council, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the planning commission and other boards and commissions.

"Once or twice a year, we like to meet with the boards to talk about the activities involved, the status and what to look forward to," said City Manager Diana Kollmeyer.

Mayor Richard Smith said overall, the meeting went well, since it was the first combined one in a while.

"The discussion went beyond what it was intended to do, but the groups should get together to see how they can help each other and better communicate," he said.

City council members suggested some visioning, Smith said, while DDA representatives talked about what was done in the past year. Carol Thompson, administrative coordinator for the DDA, said she was glad to have the chance to "get together" and receive suggestions.

"There are topics we need to address with the council and other commissions," she said. "We really tried to stay away from what's com-

ing up, but we did list our accomplishments, like the new flag pole, park improvements, Victory Station, Horizon Park and others."

Others included the façade program, marketing, the newsletter, the website and businessowner work, she said.

"We don't have a way to come together with all the boards so it's always good to share that, assist and to go forward with the tasks," said Thompson.

John Juriga, a member of the planning commission, said some of the positive news to come out of the meeting was the park projects that have been completed and the success of the Boy and Girls Club.

Amy Jordan, vice-chair of the planning commission, said the group recently hired a new planning consultant and is working on the outdoor storage ordinance and display.

"We will have a special meeting on it where we've invited businessowners to put together a working group for that," she said. "It's good to see their help."

"It was a good meeting, maybe we need to have more than just one a year; just more of a major commitment to getting together face to face to talk," said Mayor Pro Tem Rick Dawson.

"We hope to have one at least twice a year," added Kollmeyer.

"I'd like to see the next one in another six months," said Smith.

Sumpter Township man held in death of baby

A 27-year-old Sumpter Township man is being held in connection with the death of a 17-month-old boy whose death was apparently caused by severe shaking.

According to reports, Sumpter Township Police responded to an incident at the 300 Block of Edgewood in the Rawsonville Woods Mobile Home community last week. Upon arrival, officers found the child on the living room floor, not breathing and without a pulse. After CPR, the child was transported to the University of Michigan Hospital, however, the child had suffered irrevocable trauma, officials said.

Police said after further investi-

gation, it was found that the child and three other children under the age of 2 were being taken care of by the 27-year-old man—the boyfriend of the shaken child's mother. The other children belonged to the boyfriend. The victim's mother was at work at the time of the incident, police reported, and the boyfriend told officers that the child started to have a seizure while watching TV.

An autopsy revealed that the cause of death was shaken baby syndrome, according to police. Charges will be filed by the Wayne County Prosecutors Office.

For more information, contact Chief James Pierce Jr. or Sgt. Michael Czinski at (734) 461-6898.



Brunch with Santa

Children from throughout Van Buren Township enjoyed the day with Santa last weekend, which included brunch, pictures and holiday stories. Families feasted on a meal by Carlson Catering, while listening to a performance by the Belleville Brass. Stories with Mrs. Claus followed.



Salvation Army bellringers still needed

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit is calling on residents to help fill the need for Red Kettle bell ringers this holiday season. The group needs to fill two-hour shifts from now through Dec. 24.

The Salvation Army launched the search for bell ringers earlier than ever this year to ensure there would be enough volunteers stationed at the 300 red kettles that will be located throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. "We

know times are tough in metro Detroit, but our volunteer bell ringers are really the backbone of our Christmas fundraiser," said Major Norman Marshall, divisional commander for The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit. "Donating two hours of time to ring a bell can really make a difference to support those in need."

Bell ringing opportunities throughout Southeast Michigan are posted at www.ringbell.org. Anyone

can log on, pick a preferred location and a two-hour shift that is convenient for them. Volunteers can sign up for one or more two-hour shifts and will receive a confirmation email just prior to the selected date.

Funds raised during the annual Red Kettle Campaign help to assist local families and individuals in times of need.

For more information about the Salvation Army, call (877) SAL-MICH or visit

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www.journalgroup.com

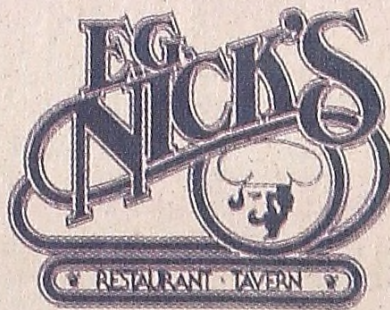


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'Tis the season Local GM workers dig deep for Toys for Tots

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Uncertainty about the future of the U.S. automotive industry was set aside Friday at the GM Powertrain Romulus Engine plant, at least for a moment.

That's because an 11-year tradition, the annual U. S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots giveaway, took place in the main staging area at the Ecorse Road facility.

Pam Reese, communications director for the facility, said the recent upheaval regarding the failure of the bridge loan in the U.S. Senate did not temper the festivities at the plant.

"I don't think people here were thinking about it too much," she said. "We've taken part in the Toys for Tots event for many years. We have a difficult economy right now, and I think that when you give back, it makes you feel good."

Again this year, Employees of Operations donated more than 140 bikes and dozens of toys to needy area children. The toys were presented at a special ceremony at the plant. Sue Elliott from the Toys for

Tots organization was in attendance along with leaders of the plant and members of the community.

"Every year, employees give generously to Toys for Tots," said Plant Manager Rick Sutton. "Even though the economy is tough and GM is experiencing difficult times, our employees supported the program because it is important to children in this community."

Bikes and toys were purchased with money raised from employee donations and fundraisers and support from GM suppliers. No corporate dollars were used to support the effort, Reese said.

In total, GM employees and UAW members raised more than \$10,000 to purchase the toys.

"Supporting Toys for Tots is an important tradition of employees at our plant," said Bob Crumley, UAW Local 163 Shop Chairman. "Employees raised nearly \$10,000 through raffles, donations, candy sales and other efforts. They support the cause to make sure children in our community have a Merry Christmas."

The co-chairs of GM Powertrain Romulus Engine Operations' Toys

Employees raised nearly \$10,000 through raffles, donations, candy sales and other efforts. They support the cause to make sure children in our community have a Merry Christmas.

Bob Crumley UAW Local 163 Shop Chairman



"Santa Claus" Ernest Brutoni, Plant Manager Rick Sutton, Romulus Engine Toys for Tots Co-chair Felicia Jordan, Sue Elliott of Toys for Tots, Romulus Engine Toys for Tots Co-Chair and UAW Local 163 member Mark Corrion, UAW Local 163 Chairman Bob Crumley and children from the local community celebrate at the GM Romulus Engine plant Toys for Tots dedication. Employees at the plant and GM suppliers raised more than \$10,000 to support the cause.

for Tots committee are Global Manufacturing Systems coordinator Felicia Jordan and UAW Local 163 member Mark Corrion of V-6 assembly.

At the event, area children were allowed to visit with Santa and pick

out a toy and bike for themselves, Reese said.

She added that helping to reassure area families is reassuring to plant employees, who have endured a roller coaster ride this year, especially during the past few

weeks.

"I will say that we have very smart people working on this (the bridge loan), and we know that it's going to be a painful process," she said. "But in the end, we know it's going to work out."

Officials look back on school year

Andrea King
Staff Writer

From the voters' approval of the school bond approval to the drastic drop in student enrollment, 2008 for the Van Buren Public School District turned out to have both ups and downs.

School officials said the approval of the school bond allowing the construction of a new Belleville High School, the approval of the sinking fund millage and the donations raised by the Education Foundation were the key accomplishments of the year.

The major district achievement, according to Paul Henning, spokesperson for the district, was the school bond approval.

"It was terrific," he said. "This

was one that the teachers and administrators were working on for at least a decade and, in these hard economic times, it's nothing short of a miracle."

"It will be one of the best things to happen to this community to revitalize the area," he added. "The schools thank the community for passing that."

Boundary changes were made, along with the approval of the sinking fund millage which will fund continued school improvements. Security and safety concerns "started off this school year on the right foot with extra security and guards in place," Henning said.

"Typically the week before the holidays, the energy gets high so the Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) basically has volunteers who are authorized to

be in the hallways and the kids seem to respond to that," he said.

Struggles in the district continue, such as Superintendent Pete Lazaroff being diagnosed with cancer and a loss in about \$3 million in revenue. Student learning, however, will remain a primary concern, according to Toni Hunt, trustee of the Van Buren Public School Board.

"We are still below state average in so many areas and that is absolutely not acceptable," she said. "We also—along with the auto companies—must work with critical financial shortages. However, we aren't going to get a bailout from the federal government. We need to find a way to improve student learning and stay within our budget. This is going to be tough, but we must do it."

Henning said student loss was definitely a blow to the district and operating funds and layoffs, but the district has put in an aggressive energy savings plan. Budget discussions and more cuts will also continue into the fall.

"We tracked the students we lost and the story is many have moved out of state due to layoffs; a symptom of the Michigan economy," said Henning.

As for 2009, school officials said they will move forward with project plans for the new high school, the Project Lead the Way program and unfortunately, more budget cuts.

"That will be big on our plate. How to keep the educational value, while still meeting the educational needs for our students," said Henning.

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FRI-SAT 11:50, 2:00, 4:10
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)
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FRI-SAT 11:40, 1:40, 4:20
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)
FRI-TUE 11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45
FRI-SAT 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:45, 9:00
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) FRI-TUE 6:25, 9:50
TWILIGHT (PG-13) FRI-TUE 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
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‘Jingle Bell’ run raises \$500 for foundation

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Belleville welcomed the holidays with bigger and better celebrations this year, including a Jingle Bell Fun Run, annual tree-lighting ceremony, a Christmas Parade and a fireworks display.

The events started off with more than 70 participants in the 1-mile Jingle Bell Fun Run and Walk to generate funds for the Van Buren Schools Education Foundation. Members not only raised money for the schools, but also hope to make it a part of the holiday tradition.

“We raised more than \$500 and it was a lot better than anticipated,” said Randy Brown, foundation president and co-chair of the parade. “This is a fun way for the foundation to raise money. The snow started on cue to give us that holiday feeling and everyone had a great time.”

Runners and walkers who ranged from ages 5-60 came out, while prizes were awarded to the first place male and female runners, the jingliest, the youngest and the oldest. One winner was Chad Osier, a Belleville High School graduate, who took home the award for first place male with a time of 5 minutes and 34 seconds.

After a hot dog dinner at Belleville High School, people headed over to Main Street for the Christmas nighttime parade. The grand marshal lead the way for many parade entries, like the schools and area organizations, along with Santa who arrived on a fire engine.

“The Boy and Girl Scouts and llamas, which are really cool animals, also added to the parade,” said Bill Wolters, a member of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, host of the parade.

“The floats were unbelievable,” added

Brown.

Awards included: Haggerty Elementary, who won for the Best School entry; Northwest Acoustical, who received the Best Business entry; I-94 Marina who received the Loving Cup trophy from the Grand Marshal and the Belleville Area Museum, who won the Best Community Float where Sharrie Budd, Van Buren Township treasurer was Mrs. Claus.

Once Santa was presented the key to the community, he made his way to the Belleville Area Museum to light the tree and to the First United Methodist Church for holiday greetings, pictures and presents for the children. The Belleville High School Ambassadors choir also performed holiday songs.

“It was a big night for us,” said Museum Director Diane Wilson. “We had about 400 people in that day.”

Also new this year was a silent auction

where two Christmas trees were donated, decorated and auctioned off as a fundraiser for the museum. Resident Kay Atkins won the ‘Santa’ tree for \$175 and Steve Guenther, a member of the historical society, won the ‘Candyland’ tree for \$175, as well.

The chamber also sponsored a decorating contest for the ‘Best Business’ on Main Street. Winners included Main Street Flowers, Friends Floor Covering, the Styling Center and Barbara Bob’s.

Also new this year was ice sculptures sponsored by area businesses, which were on display on Main Street, too.

“Everything went off really well, people enjoyed the ice sculptures and loved the fireworks,” said Wolters.

“We really started to build the event so now we just need to improve on the particulars, get better at what we do and get people downtown,” said Brown.

Calendar of events

Candy Cane Dance set

The Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation organization will host a Candy Cane Dance at the Romulus Senior Center.

The event will take place from 6-8 tonight.

Designed for children ages 3 to 12 years old, attendees will be able to enjoy face painting, dancing, snacks, and a chance to spend time with a special, surprise visitor.

The cost of the event is \$6 per child. Adults are free.

The Romulus Senior Center is located at 36525 Bibbins Road.

For more information, or to register, call the senior center at (734) 955-4120.

Jumping into the “Christmas Splash”

Adults and children alike are invited to attend the first-ever “Christmas Splash” at the Romulus Athletic Center on Dec. 21.

The event will include a buffet brunch for all and a fun-filled afternoon with special guest, Santa Claus.

For more information, call (734) 942-2223.

Christmas Bowling on a roll

Bowlers who want to spend the Christmas season striking out will be able to do so Dec. 29, when Michael B’s Bowling Alley begins annual Christmas Bowling.

The event is co-sponsored by Romulus Parks and Recreation.

The event will include two games, shoe rental, dinner and monetary prizes for the cost of \$20 per ticket.

The \$20 fee is for a one adult, one child couple.

Pre-registration is required.

For more information, or to register, call the senior center at (734) 955-4120.

Youth basketball teams forming

The Romulus Recreation Department is accepting applications for the youth basketball program, from Jan. 12 to April 24.

Practices are from 5:50 until 9 p.m. on varying days of the week, Monday through Friday, depending on team assignments. All games are from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays.

Teams will be broken down by grades, specifically third-fifth grade girls, sixth-eighth grade girls, ninth-12th grade girls, third-fourth grade boys, fifth-sixth grade boys, seventh-eighth grade boys, and ninth-12th grade boys.

The games will take place at Romulus High School, Romulus Middle School and selected Romulus elementary schools.

The cost for the program is \$70 for one child, \$130 for two immediate family members, \$180 for three immediate family members and \$220 for four immediate family members. All prices include a team jersey.

For more information, call Romulus Parks and Recreation at (734) 941-8665.

Municipal offices announce holiday closures.

The Romulus City Hall and the 34th District Court will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

The same offices will also be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, for the New Year observances.

—Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Belleville approves grant plan

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Belleville officials have approved the allocations for the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds.

After a public hearing Monday night, officials said they expect to receive about \$57,000 next year in funds. Projects must meet the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations and Wayne County program guidelines. Therefore, Belleville said their objectives and proposed uses include projects for a suitable living environment.

About \$9,830 will go toward senior and disabled services, about \$40,470 will go toward barrier-free improvements, about \$1,000 toward senior chore services and about \$5,700 to program administration and strategic planning.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said officials do have some ideas for the barrier-free improvements, but there has to be bricks and mortar included.

“The program administration and strategic planning would be what the city would present and then city council could also hear comments and suggestions on that,” she said. “For the senior

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It's in the city, it's a highly successful program and I would like to see the city support it.

Ken Voigt

chore services, we’re trying to establish a program to help seniors with things like shoveling the snow and raking leaves at home.”

Resident Kim Tindall, who is also a member of the parks and recreation commission, suggested that grant funds could be used toward Village Park projects.

“It could be pushing it a little because it’s not in the exact vicinity of low to moderate income, but the parks and recreation commission would like to see improvements there and it certainly falls under the barrier-free requirement,” she said.

Resident Ken Voigt said he would like to see some funds go

toward the Boys and Girls Club in Belleville.

“It’s in the city, it’s a highly successful program and I would like to see the city support it,” he said.

Changes to the 2007 CDBG funds were also approved recently. The funds were reprogrammed for new city improvements and the parks and recreation master plan.

Of the \$58,000 received for the 2007 CDBG funds, about \$14,180 originally submitted to be used for barrier free improvements will now go toward a carport type structure to house the senior/disabled transportation vehicles. The other \$29,520 will go toward senior transportation, along with \$14,300 for planning and administration.

Kollmeyer said funds are limited to certain projects that must benefit low to moderate-income level persons, households, seniors or disabled people. It also addresses slum or blight conditions and meets a particular urgent community development need, according to officials.

Residents are welcome to add comments and ideas on proposed projects and, to suggest other projects, which may meet the Wayne County guidelines. For more information, contact city hall at (734) 697-9323.

Kerr

FROM PAGE 1

created.

However, the company exceeded that mark.

As of last month, the company invested \$5.8 million into the facility, and created 76 jobs for area residents, according to numbers provided by Andrew Beaudry, the vice president of financial operations for Kerr.

The reason Kerr asked for the extension was to help offset other fixed costs associated with running the business.

Council members, at the Dec. 8 meeting, questioned the fast turnaround time required to make the Dec. 22 state deadline without a wealth of background on the situation.

“I do think that Kerr has been a great business for us,” said

”

I think that as long as the facilities exemptions are evaluated using the same criteria, we won't see that.

Tim Keyes

Councilman William Wadsworth. “I would have no problem having a special council meeting to reconsider this.”

A special meeting took place and a compromise was struck: The city council applied revised abatement data to make sure Kerr’s application was evaluated in the same way other applications are, but using the job cre-

ation parameters that were not in effect in 2001.

That made Kerr eligible for a 10-year break, which was approved.

Companies that are not eligible for a tax abatement through the city typically apply for an additional abatement after the first has expired. There is some concern that, with the council approving an extension, other companies will expect the same consideration.

Keyes said he believes the floodgates will remain closed, and that a flux of applications is unlikely.

“I think that as long as the facilities exemptions are evaluated using the same criteria, we won’t see that.”

The Industrial Facilities Exemption law was put into place in 1996 to help local communities keep industrial businesses in their cities, and to keep jobs in Michigan.

Loan

FROM PAGE 1

ing for Michigan residents and local governments.

“Last night, some southern Senators kicked American workers in the gut,” he said.

Dingell added that there is an ongoing effort in the White House to provide aid.

“The congressional delegation from Michigan, both Democratic and Republican members, is working together to do whatever we can to help our citizens and our state by continuing to work for a loan for our automakers,” he said in a statement.

“We know what is at stake and we know we can’t rest until we try every avenue to help our automakers survive in this devastating economy climate.”

Ficano was also critical of the Senate vote.

“These are real people lives, real people jobs—I don’t know what they’re (southern Republican senators) thinking,” he said. “They still must be fighting the Civil War.”

Ficano added that the U.S. automakers are the largest employers in Wayne County, and blamed politics and anti-union sentiment for the southern revolt.

“Not passing (the bridge loan) is an act of cowardice,” he said.

In Romulus, officials are keeping an eye on the local situation.

“I don’t even want to think about what could happen if (the White House) doesn’t come through with something soon,” Lambert said.

—Staff Writer Lester Holmes contributed to this report.

”

We know what is at stake and we know we can't rest until we try every avenue to help our automakers survive in this devastating economy climate.

Congressman
John Dingell

Airport

FROM PAGE 1

ness development and jobs.

County officials have put together a development team – called the Aerotropolis Development Corp. – to bring foresight to the project.

On Jan. 5, Marsha Ennis of the Aerotropolis Task Force, will present the overall development plan for the project, and answer questions.

Though spoken about often, the project has never developed. County staffers have worked several years to make the project a success, only to be severely hampered by a limping statewide economy.

The legislation would modernize and standardize this process. When a deed is brought to the registrar’s office, it will be instantly stamped with the date, hour, and minute to ensure all deeds are

”

It's a great time to take a look at this, with everything that's happening in the auto industry.

Mayor Alan Lambert

Because of the location of the airport, most of the businesses that eventually locate in the airport city would be in Romulus, which has goals apart from those of the county.

The session will take place at city hall, 11111 Wayne Road.

addressed in a timely fashion.

Deeds will also be accessible for public view.

— News briefs are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Two years ago, the county entered into an agreement to work with other government entities to work toward a common goal of creating the aerotropolis.

However, it’s a good time to clarify what the role of the city should be, so that city officials can be sure they have a place at the table when a more concrete plan emerges.

“It’s a great time to take a look at this, with everything that’s happening in the auto industry,” Lambert said.

“Anyone that comes in here is going to have to go through our process,” he added. “There may be things that (the developer) needs to have fast-tracked, and we need to find out how all of this will work.”

The session will take place at city hall, 11111 Wayne Road.

being caught by the system.

OPINION

Slip slidin' away

Anyone on the roads this week-end might have noticed some sloppy, slick conditions lingering longer than previously experienced.

Our advice? Get used to it. Representatives from Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Transportation have been making the rounds lately, explaining changes in their winter road maintenance plan designed to save money while maintaining their 'primary concern' of driver safety.

Yeah, right. They're talking about state highways, thoroughfares like I-275, Ford Road and Michigan Avenue, but the reduction in service will filter over to county roads, too. State highways will be classified as either level I (orange) or level II (blue). On orange routes, maintenance crews will work to clear the entire pavement of ice and snow during and after a snow event—even if overtime is needed.

Blue routes will receive less attention; workers will try to clear most of the ice and snow off during snow events and clear them completely only when they can do so without incurring overtime costs.

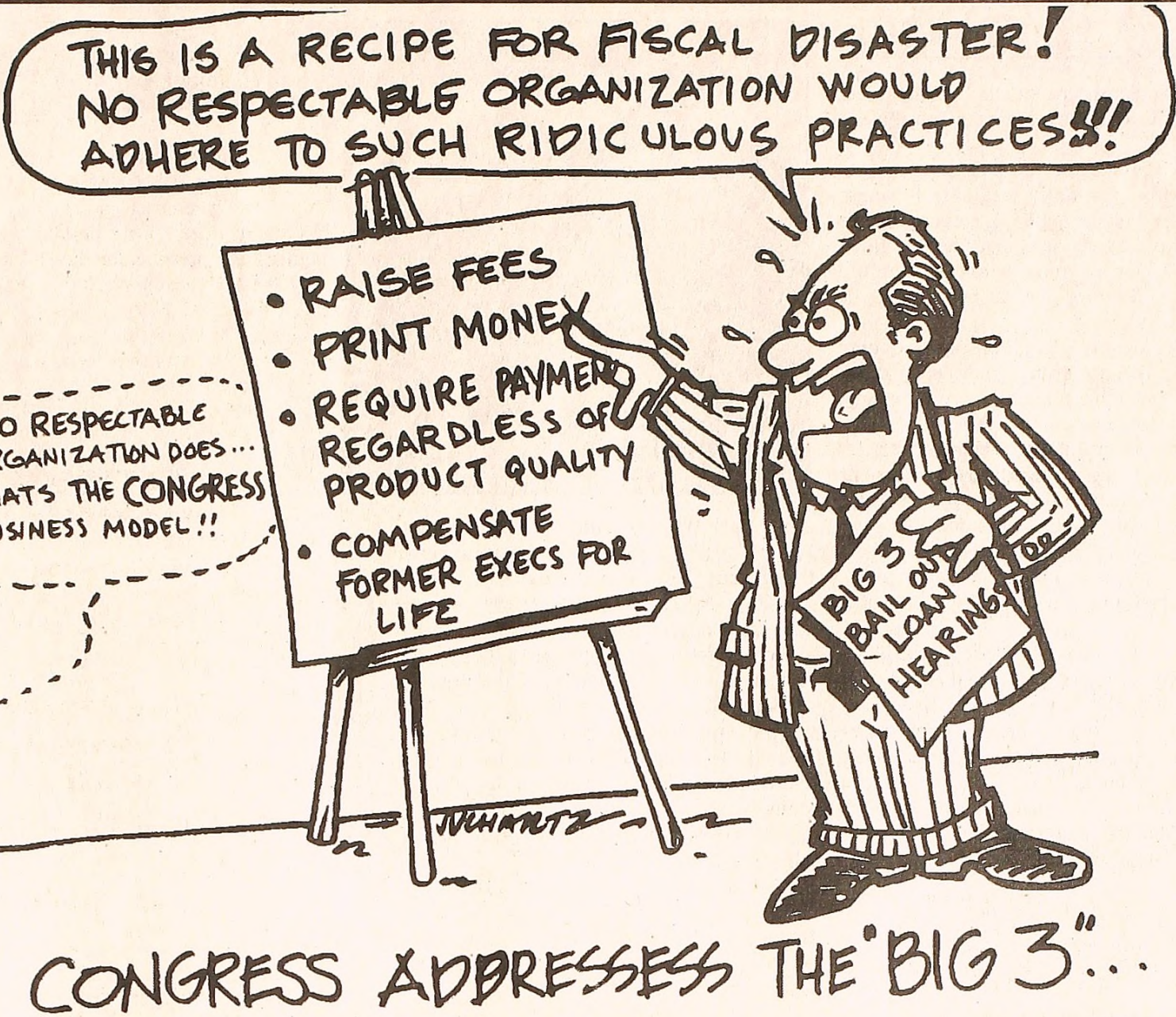
What this means is that most of us will have to brush up on our winter driving.

Perhaps this was destined to happen in an age of rising fuel costs, more expensive salt and reduced revenues. As a plan, it's more practical than just hoping it won't snow.

The communities most adversely impacted by this will be townships, of course. Townships have no jurisdiction over their roads. They rely on county crews to plow and salt them. Unlike their city counterparts, they don't even have the equipment to help out in an emergency, any way.

Our advice to representatives of those communities: get ready for a barrage of phone calls. They're most likely to field the complaints of residents, who simply expect to see plenty of orange trucks out there, no matter who's paying for the gas or the driver. It's a shame, too, because the county has made significant strides in recent years in improving this service to the suburbs.

Unfortunately, there's just not enough money—or salt—to go around.



Cross party lines to save the Big 3

The effort to secure billions in loans to help out ailing domestic automakers has produced some strange bedfellows.

One might expect a mayor like Wayne's Al Haidous—a Democrat in a Democratic town heavily reliant on Ford Motor Co.—to travel to Washington to make a pitch for the beleaguered automaker. Legislators like State Sen. Bruce Patterson and U.S. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter—whose reelection campaigns are beset with opposition supported by the United Auto Workers (UAW) union—are a different matter entirely.

Yet both have done their part. McCotter has been a constant source of support for the Big 3, speaking eloquently in their defense, pointing out the hypocrisy of a government willing to hand out

We hope, for once, he sees the light of reason. This is something that is not only vital to Detroit and Michigan, but the country as well.

billions to bail out the banking industry with virtually no strings attached or governmental oversight, while at the same time making unreasonable demands in order for car makers to get a loan—which was ultimately rejected.

Patterson has sponsored resolutions in support of the Big 3, commending the unions for doing their part—as they have during the past several years—to keep the automakers afloat.

Both should be congratulated for their effort.

As this newspaper headed to print on Tuesday, the help these automakers need was still in limbo. A proposal to lend \$14 billion to them stalled in the U.S. Senate, due in large part to the efforts of U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, whose state of Alabama houses several foreign owned auto plants who received large tax abatement incentives to locate there.

Such a short-sighted approach is alarming in a federal official. This is not just about the ongoing viability of the Big 3—it is the automotive industry in general. The companies that supply parts to the automakers rely on crossover business, too. Take one or two out of the picture and it spells trouble for everyone.

Now, if this loan—and it is a loan, not a handout, or a bailout, or anything else, it is money that will come back—is to happen, the automakers have to turn to the unlikely ally of them all, President George W. Bush.

We hope, for once, he sees the light of reason. This is something that is not only vital to Detroit and Michigan, but the country as well.

McCotter and Patterson should be recognized for remembering that, all along

Time to have acted was last year

Try as I might, I can't find any sympathy for officials in the City of Wayne.

They hosted a special city council meeting on Monday night to talk about the dire budget situation for the coming year—and perhaps the one beyond, too.

The numbers aren't good. The drop in property values, coupled with the temporary closure of the Michigan Truck Plant, means that the taxable value in the city could drop by as much as \$100 million. That means 1 mill, which generated \$660,000 in revenue just a year ago, might bring in only \$560,000 this year. When the overall millage rate is factored in, that means as much as

a \$2 million hit to the revenue stream.

Ouch. It means the dedicated millages approved by voters—to fund the library, the road improvements and things like that—will bring in less money, too.

Again, ouch. Here's the thing, though. It's not exactly breaking news. If I understood the conversation properly Monday night, they knew about the impending closure—and the subsequent removal of most of the equipment at the plant—prior to the budget presentation last year. The housing market is just about all anyone's been able to talk about for the last year or two, as we've all lamented the drop in value on our largest investment.

So now this constitutes an emergency? Granted, the stock market and banking crash has hit everyone harder than anticipated. The housing crisis lingered a little longer—but even if that was showing signs of easing up now, the residual effect would still be felt for years to come.

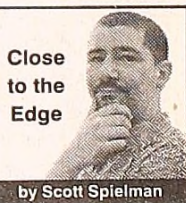
City Manager John Zech said that they would have to look at every employee, every service, to see what was absolutely necessary. If history is any indicator, it means the parks and recreation department will once again have a target on its back, the Actor's Community Theater (ACT) will have to rev up fund raising efforts, the public art program will have to be put on hold and so on.

A few weeks ago, I wrote a column expressing disappointment

that Zech received a salary increase during these trying times. It wasn't the dollar amount that bothered me—that alone won't make a lot of difference—it was the gesture. To me it meant business as usual and the City of Wayne can't afford business as usual. They couldn't a year ago, they couldn't when they put the budget together and now they're saying they have to take a hard look at every employee and every service.

I can tell this will be a contentious budget cycle. The anonymous letters are already flowing in—and I welcome them all, because they give me an inside perspective from which to ask better questions that will provide better answers that will, in turn, better serve the residents of this city.

That's what I'm interested in. I'll reserve my sympathy for my neighbors who, like me, are having a hard time keeping up with the payments and maintaining vital services of our own.



by Scott Spielman

To me it meant business as usual and the City of Wayne can't afford business as usual.

School election move gets an 'F'

While few would question the dedication of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools Board of Education members to the 19,000 students of the district or the communities they call home, they missed an opportunity to eliminate the cost of school board elections from the district budget.

Last week the members of the school board, after a year of

research and debate, decided by a 6-1 vote to move the school board election cycle from May to November.

The purpose of the move, according to board trustees, is to save the district anywhere from \$26,000 to \$100,000 of the costs of operating a school election. The district must pay municipal clerk offices within the school district

boundaries for poll workers, equipment and all other activities related to the school election.

If the board had decided to have school board elections in November of only even years, there would have been no costs to the



by Lester Holmes

JOURNAL

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On the road again

Officials, merchants celebrate opening of M-14 underpass

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

With applause, cheers and honking horns, Sheldon Road opened to commuter traffic last Friday.

Dozens of western Wayne County motorists along with community residents, business owners and elected officials gathered at the just-completed underpass at Sheldon Road near M-14 for a ceremony to celebrate the opening of the road that has been closed for almost two years.

The 23-month \$16 million Wayne County project has been a lightning rod of controversy for the Plymouth community since the county began the project in January 2007.

Despite several major incidents with the project—including a lawsuit over the use of land in the construction zone to permit issues between local utilities companies blocking construction activities for several months—the project was completed within the 23-month timeframe predicated by county officials.

“I know there was a lot of skepticism if this (construction project) would be done on time and on budget,” Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano told the crowd of spectators who came out for a ribbon cutting ceremony. “We have met both.”

The idea of creating a motor vehicle underpass on Sheldon Road reaches across several administrations of county and municipal government.

Many credit Assistant County Executive Alan Helmkamp for persuading state officials to provide an additional \$2 million to the project to extend work hours to make up for time lost during the utility companies impasse.

Helmkamp was also the person who—



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano (center) along with several municipal, county and state elected officials gather during the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the new Sheldon Road Underpass.

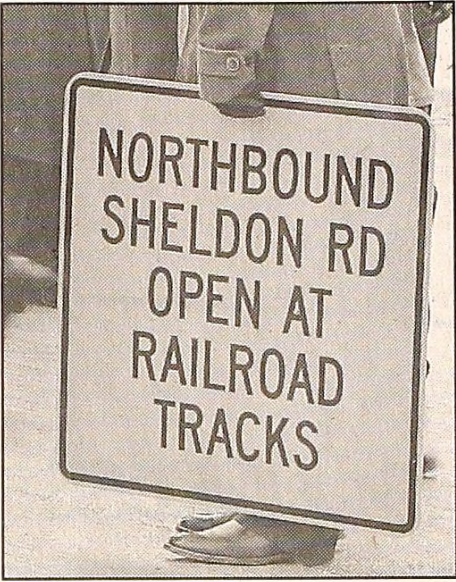
along with Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox (R-Livonia)—placed detour signs throughout the area and created a county website to help local businesses who rely on Sheldon Road for customer traffic.

Ron Loiselle, mayor pro tem of the City of Plymouth, is one of the few municipal, county or state officials who was in office in 1995 when the underpass project was considered. He said it is benefit to the communities and he credited the official in charge of the project for its success.

“Alan (Helmkamp) has done a phenomenal job,” Loiselle.

As for the importance of the road, Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said having the underpass project complete would benefit the community in more ways than one.

“Now we have a major artery so emergency vehicles as well as residents can use,” he said.



Election

FROM PAGE 5

district because the local municipalities already have elections scheduled.

The board members who voted for the every November elections cited several reasons for their choice. The first being allowing district voters the opportunity to elect board members next fall. The district has not had an election since May 2007 and six seats on the board would have been open for election if they wait until November 2010.

The other is an attempt to mitigate the perceived influence of

political party influence—and funds—into the school board elections process.

Board members, along with some members of the public who spoke during the election date hearing, said the costs associated with campaigning in the middle of an election season dominated by either presidential or gubernatorial election is too great for individuals living within the community who are inclined to serve on the board.

Several board members feel that candidates will turn to the major parties for campaign help and thus be beholden to officials in Lansing who helped get them elected instead of the residents who actually cast votes in their favor.

Well no one would disagree that

the cost of a campaign is expensive, it's not the responsibility of the school board to factor in campaign costs while making a decision on scheduling district elections.

Northville Public Schools had a board election last November under the glare of one of the most politicized elections in modern U.S history and no one from the Democratic National Committee or Republican National Committee stumped for candidates or wrote checks.

Of course there are not as many voters in Northville as there are in Plymouth and Canton and several other communities that make up the Plymouth-Canton school district, but even if the political parties attempted to influence the election,

shouldn't the school board have more faith that district residents will see through the smoke screen and vote for candidates they believe have the best interests of the students and community at heart?

As for the issue of potentially having six members of the board replaced in one election, members of the board just have to run better campaigns than their competitors. Other commissions and boards in the Plymouth and Canton communities face the prospect of turnover every four years. Government and municipal service still runs effectively in the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township because voters in the area do an effective job of judging candidates.

The idea of having an election each year and adding an avoidable \$84,000 to the 2009-10 school budget to avoid a massive turnover will not hold up well the next time parents are informed of larger class sizes or increased pay-to-play sports fees.

This board has been asked to cut millions from the budgets during the past five years due to a lack of school funding from Lansing. Despite being the third largest school district in the state, they receive the lowest per pupil funding allowance in western Wayne County.

The board has made difficult decisions time and time again for the district that have often worked out for the best. This decision, I'm afraid, will not.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD DECEMBER 1, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Linda R. Choate, Clerk
Pamela Morrison Kersey, Treasurer, CMFA, Treasurer
Betsey Krampitz, Chief of Staff

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-376

2. Motion by Barden, supported by Wadsworth to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 24, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Barden, Bragg, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Burcroff, Gear.
Motion Carried.

3A. None

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout, to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-377

5A1. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to concur with the Administration and authorize payment of our 2009 annual membership dues with the Michigan Municipal League in the amount of \$7,220.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously

08-378

5B. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Tom Wilson, DPW Director, to award bid 08/09-09, ice melter for off road use for the Department of Public Works to the lowest bidder, Clipper's Landscape at a cost of \$281.75 per pallet delivered.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-379

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Charles Kirby, Public Safety Director, to authorize the purchase of twenty-five (25) PM 1500 Motorola radios for the Police Department from the authorized distributor, Herkimer Radio Service, under the State of Michigan bid in the amount of \$58,526.50.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-380

6A1. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to introduce an amendment to the City of Romulus' Offenses Ordinance (Chapter 20) to modify the curfew requirements for minors within the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-381

6A2. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to introduce an amendment to the City of Romulus' Parks and Recreation Ordinance (Chapter 22) to prohibit animals (other than animals accompanying and serving disabled persons) at any festival, fair, or other special event open to the public within the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-382

6A3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to introduce an amendment to Chapter 37 of the Romulus Code of Ordinances to add Article IV-provisions; to empower the Mayor to restrict residential lawn watering during peak water usage hours; to regulate common use water meter settings; and to authorize the Department of Public Works to initiate a water use and conservation public education program.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-383

10. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden granting approval for Elected Officials of the City of Romulus who wish to attend the Michigan Municipal League Training Seminars - January 14, 2009 and February 20 - 21, 2009; and to attend the Annual Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C., March 14 - 18, 2009.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Bragg, supported by Wadsworth to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on December 1, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: December 18, 2008

SPORTS



Romulus senior guard Rashard Porter (0) goes up for a lay-up with help from teammate Donnavin Searcy (34) on Thursday against Wyandotte.
Photo by Jeff Novak

Romulus Eagles blast Wyandotte

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

In their season and home opener, the Romulus Eagles looked like the powerhouse team that went 22-4 and made it to the final four last year when they trounced Wyandotte, 76-58.

With only one returning starter and no truly defined superstars on the roster the limelight fell on some relatively unknown rising talent.

Senior point guard Filmore Bouldes spread the ball around for nine of his teammates to score. He added six of his own.

The true surprise of the night was senior guard Demetrius Price, who earned himself a gold star on his forehead with his performance. He led the team with 16 points that included four from beyond the arc. He hit back-to-back triples in the first quarter to put the Eagles up, 16-4, and made it 18-7 on his next attempt-a nice drive to the basket.

"He can play," said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. "He can shoot it-he's a little bit like a poor man's version of (Allen) Iverson-he's quick and can play off balance because he's athletic. He makes some tough shots going to the rim and he brings a ton of energy on defense. He's going to be good for us."

Senior forward Donnavin Searcy added 12 points in the outing. Romulus had three players with eight-junior forward DeAndray Buckley, senior center Stefan Jenkins and senior guard Cody Barnes.

"I thought our guys did a great job offensively," Oats said. "They attacked and made plays and took shots. They got on our offensive boards and did a really good job on that end."

While Romulus worked as a team, Wyandotte was a one-man show with senior Andrew VanDierenDonck scoring 26.

Romulus was off to a quick start, though, taking a 10-2 lead out of the gates. The Eagles finished the first period ahead, 20-11. Wyandotte scored the last two baskets at the end of the first and the first one of the second frame to narrow the gap, 20-13. Wyandotte took control of their offensive boards through the second and scored the last six points of the half to make it a 38-32 game.

That didn't matter to the Eagles as they stormed out of the locker room and went on a 9-2 tear to start the second half. With the momentum back in the Eagles' grasp, they extended their lead, 56-44 at the end of three.

Romulus didn't give up a defen-

sive rebound to Wyandotte the entire second half and put the game away, 76-58.

"Defensively we were good early but in the second quarter we started to give up a bunch of offensive boards," Oats said. "I think we gave up eight second-chance points in the second quarter, which let them right back in the game. Then in the second half we didn't give up any o-boards so to me our defensive glass was one of the biggest problems."

The other challenge was the stifling 1-3-1 zone defense Wyandotte runs. The University of Michigan runs the same defense and has knocked off UCLA and Duke-both top-5 ranked programs.

"If Ben Howland, who's been to three straight final fours, and Mike Krzyzewski had problems with the 1-3-1 it shows how tough it is-how different it is," Oats said.

Romulus also struggled from the line, going 5-of-16.

The Eagles were tested on Saturday when they faced off against the No.1 team in the state-Detroit Pershing at Denby High School.

"We have to get a lot tougher," Oats said before the game. "They thought 55 (Joseph Ford) was big for Wyandotte but Derrick Nix is twice that size. We're going to have to do a lot better on the defensive glass. We're going to have to get tougher and not give them easy baskets. That's what we have to figure out if we're going to be tough or not."

Pershing proved why they are rated tops in the state, knocking Romulus off, 70-51.

Nix, who is headed to Michigan State University next year, did his part to disrupt the Eagles' flow. He finished with 16 points, but he was just one of four Pershing players to reach double digits.

Ben Ritchbow led the squad with 19 points. Juwan Howard-the son of famed University of Michigan and NBA player Juwan Howard-added 18 and Dennis Perry, 10.

"They are a pretty good team," Oats said after the game. "A lot of their complementary players from last year are a lot better than we maybe thought last year."

Senior guard Valdez Green scored 19 points to lead the Eagles. He scored 10 points in the fourth and hit five triples in the game. Junior forward DeAndry Buckley grabbed 12 rebounds.

Romulus hosts Willow Run at 7 p.m. on Thursday. The Eagles then host their annual Romulus Holiday Tournament where they face Detroit Finney at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27.

Lady Rocks start season 0-2

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Salem Lady Rock hoopsters were ranked No. 8 in the state during the preseason but they are unexpectedly still looking for their first victory.

Headed into his 25th year of coaching, Salem Coach Fred Thomann shrugged off the pressure of the high ranking and feels it has nothing to do with the slow start.

"There's always a lot of pressure at the beginning of any season," he said. "We have a lot of players back and expectations are high. We're a team in transition trying to find our identity and when we get that down we're going to be pretty good."

Salem was the team to beat last year. They finished the season with a 20-3 overall record.

The Rocks have a lot of players back that were instrumental in making that happen.

Already committed to Wayne State University and with the taste of success still fresh her mouth from last year, senior Chelsea Davis is back for her final go-around. She's an every-thing player. She can score. She can rebound. She can defend. At 6-foot she doesn't have a hard time blocking shots either.

Davis scored a team-high 15

points in the 57-51 loss to Ann Arbor Huron in the season opener on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

While Davis has the ability to control the inside, senior Victoria Brotz, in her third year of varsity play, can dominate from outside the arc with her sharp shooting abilities. She has struggle early to find her footing in three-point land.

"She's a very good perimeter shooter," Thomann said. "But she needs to continue to push herself to be the player that she is capable of."

Junior guards Sarah Stone and Brett deBear offer some additional height at 5-foot-10 and 5-foot-9 respectively. Junior Rachel Norman steps into the role of a starter this season after being the first player off of the bench last year.

"deBear is a good decision maker and ball handler and pretty good shooter for us but she needs to step up and be the player that she capable of being," Thomann said. "Norman played a significant role for us last year coming off the bench and providing energy. We need her to continue to do that."

Newcomer Tracey Whelan, a transfer from Mercy, is a good outside shooter and finished well at the rim, according to Thomann.

Even with all of the returning talent, Thomann is still waiting for

some one to take the reins of the team and lead them. So far no one has.

"This has been one of the issues for this group in terms of who is going to step forward," he said. "We're struggling to find that right now."

Salem fell in a close match against host Ann Arbor Huron in the Rocks' season opener on Dec. 3.

Salem kept it close and brought it to within two points in the fourth but Huron made its free throws down the stretch to put the game away.

Whelan scored 10 points.

More recently, Salem fell to host Mercy, 40-28, on Saturday.

Salem took a 27-20 lead in the third but was outscored 20-1 the rest of the way.

"We missed a couple of shots and we got out of rhythm," Thomann said. "All of a sudden they hit a three, get a steal, a breakaway layup and maybe even a few free throws and go ahead."

Brotz led the team with seven points.

It doesn't get any easier for the Rocks either. They host cross-campus rivals Canton in their home opener at 7 p.m. on Friday. The Lady Chiefs are 2-0.

"Canton is playing very high level right now," Thomann said. "It will be a good challenge for our group."

Lady Vikings overcome Romulus

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Inkster Lady Vikings improved to 2-1 on the season with a 53-38 victory over visiting Romulus on Friday.

"We played with a lot better intensity on defense than we have," said Inkster Coach Peggy Carr. "They followed the game plan really well."

Defense was the highlight for the Lady Vikings, who limited the Lady Eagles to just 16 points the second half. Senior guard Teona Fickling led the defensive efforts with six steals to go with her 12 points.

"She did a really good job for us on defense," Carr said.

Inkster led, 13-8, after the first period. Romulus put up a fight in the second quarter, going shot for shot (14-14) with the Vikings to make it a 27-22 game at the half.

Then Inkster's defense took over, holding Romulus to 16 points-eight in each of the last two quarters.

The Vikings racked up 17 points in the third to take a commanding 44-30 lead.

Sophomore Janae Jackson led the attack with 17 points for Inkster. She dominated the boards with 10 rebounds for her first double-double of the season.

"We have a long way to go but we're seeing a lot of improvement," Carr said.

Senior Ashley Moore knocked down 14 points for Romulus and nabbed 10 rebounds in the strong effort. Jasmine Knowles finished with 12 points.

Inkster battled Allen Park on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. Then the Lady Vikings are off until Friday, Dec. 26 when they face Ladywood at the Detroit Renaissance Christmas Tournament.

Romulus visited Highland Park on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. The Lady Eagles host Ypsilanti at 7 p.m. on Friday and resume after the New Year when they host Allen Park at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Cool second half halts Lady Mustangs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Northville Lady Mustangs were hot to start last Tuesday's game against visiting Walled Lake Central but cooled off as the night went on, falling to the Vikings, 55-42.

Northville matched the Vikings shot for shot in the first quarter and only trailed by two, 17-15, after eight minutes of play. After that, the Lady 'Stangs could only score nine in each of the following frames.

"Central knocked down a couple of threes early in the game and

their shooters gained confidence as the night went on," said Northville Coach Todd Gudith. "We contested just about every shot they took which is why this loss is difficult to swallow. When you get into a rhythm, even being just one step away is too much room to give a shooter. Give Central credit for hitting some big shots throughout the game."

Central led 29-24 at the half.

Their offense didn't seem to slow any in the second half either. The Vikings took a 43-33 lead after three periods of play and finished the game off by outscoring the

Mustangs, 12-9, in the final stanza.

Northville had stellar performances from junior Katherine Jansen who scored 14 to lead the team. She was 3-of-4 from beyond the arc. Seniors Chelsea Atzinger added 11 points and Erin Hughes, nine.

"Offensively we moved the ball well and found ways to score both inside and out in the first half," Gudith said.

"We did a nice job of handling their half court pressure overall. Northville finishes off its Walled Lake leg of the season when they host Western at 7 p.m. on Thursday.



'Cats win two

The Plymouth Wildcat hockey team netted two wins last week to improve to 7-3 for the season. The Wildcats beat up on Walled Lake Western, 6-2, on Thursday. John Maurer, above (19), opened the scoring with an assist from John Deal and Evan Swieczkowski. Then Maurer, from Taylor Currier, scored a shorthanded goal with six seconds left in the first to give Plymouth a 2-1 lead. Chris Merrill scored a power-play goal halfway through the second period to give the Wildcats a 3-1 lead after two. Ryan Renault scored followed by a Currier goal on the next shift. And two minutes later Kyle Callahan notched the final mark for a 6-1 lead. Plymouth knocked off Dearborn, 7-2, last Tuesday. Zach Gambrell scored twice and Tyler Sanders scored once and assisted on two others. Renault, Patrick Smiatacz, Nick Sofios and Alex Holcomb.

Photo by Ken Garner

SPORTS

Belleville tops Wayne

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Eight points was all that separated Wayne from defining what kind of year this would be for the varsity basketball squad.

Eight points was the margin that host Belleville beat the Zebras in the teams' season opener last Tuesday. It wasn't the start that Wayne Coach Wayne Woodard had hoped for but it was surprisingly better than the preseason had demonstrated.

"We played pretty well actually," he said. "We hadn't played well up to then. We're trying to find consistency right now-looking to string a couple good days of practice together. Last year we would have five or six good days of practice before we had a bad one."

His Zebras still hung tough against a team that was ranked in the top-25 in the state.

Wayne led 13-12 after one period of play and trailed by one, 29-28, at the end of 16 minutes. Then Belleville outscored Wayne 16-7 in the third before the free-for-all fourth quarter where 52 combined points were scored.

The Zebras outscored the Tigers, 27-25, in the final stanza but still came out on the short end.

"We got beat up pretty bad on the boards," Woodard said. "(Mohamed) Conde was all over the glass for Belleville."

Conde scored 21 points and secured 13 rebounds for the Tigers. Booker Stoudmire and Ricky Love each scored 13 points.

Wayne senior Robert Woodson led the Zebras with an impressive 25 points. Junior forward Derrick Horton added 13.

Wayne's struggles are expected with the loss of seven top-notch seniors from last year's roster-all are at college, six of them are playing sports.

Woodard does return eight seniors this season but most had limited playing time.

Woodson is the top guy with the most experience. He was a starter and captain last year as a junior. His 25-point showcase against Belleville demonstrated how

invaluable he is to the squad. "He's a great leader and great student," Woodard said. "He gets the whole student-athlete thing-he's a winner. He's a leader in the classroom, a leader in the hallway and a leader on the basketball court. He's a great teammate and it says a lot being picked as a captain last year with all of those seniors on the team."

Senior forward Jimmel Bennet is back for another go. He's a good shooter and scorer, according to Woodard. Senior Delorean Holland is a senior forward that can play inside and outside. Jesse Dorow and Jeremy Vandergrift join the senior forward group while Joe Barton is back as a senior guard.

Dan Hill is the team's lone returning junior. Last year he was the first big forward off the bench. This year he was chosen captain by his teammates and has the ability to play many different positions, according to Woodard.

"He's very similar to Woodson as far as the student-athlete aspect," Woodard said. "He's not as vocal as Woodson-he's more of a leader by example. He's a little undersized for being our biggest player at 6-3 but he's a competitor and is always battling."

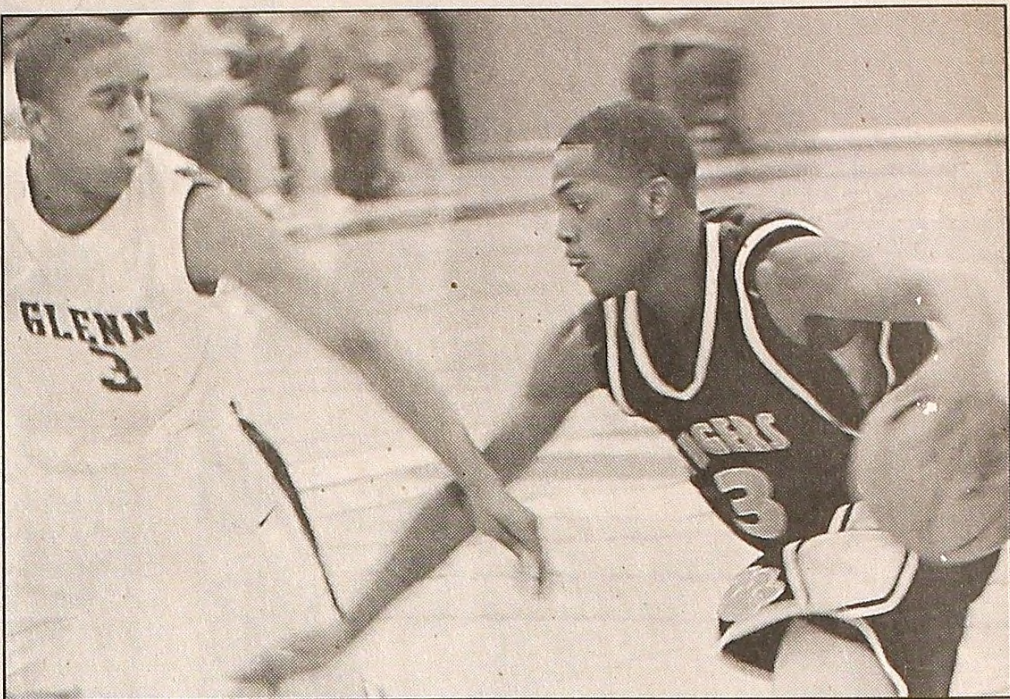
Joining the team this season are seniors Mike Safford, a guard, and center Nick Mills. Juniors include guards Jon Bausley and Reggie Reeves and forwards Derric Horton and Jamele Robinson.

Horton led the junior varsity squad in scoring last year.

Jamie Strickland is the lone sophomore on the roster. He led the freshman team in scoring last year. He only had two games where he scored under 25 points, according to Woodard.

"He's definitely a scorer," he said. "He's a solid student and is reliable. He should get solid minutes when he gets in there."

Wayne is back in action at Brighton at 7 p.m. on Friday. Then the Zebras take part in the 1st Annual John Glenn Basketball Classic, where they play North Farmington at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 30.



Belleville defuses Rockets

The Belleville Tigers turned over a new leaf this year and were quick to show it. The Tiger defeated host John Glenn, 42-32, on Friday night to start the season, 2-0. Belleville beat visiting Wayne Memorial, 70-62, in the season opener last Tuesday. Junior forward Mohamed Conde led the Tigers with 13 points on Friday. Glenn senior Austin Anderson put in 10 for the Rockets. Belleville is at Monroe at 7 p.m. on Thursday. Glenn hosts Clarenceville at 7 p.m. on Friday. Above, Belleville senior guard Ricky Love, right, drives against Glenn Senior Austin Anderson. Photo by Ken Garner

Tigers, Eagles find new conference

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Conference (WWAC) for the start of the 2009-10 season.

The collapse of the Mega Conference left many of the 28 teams dangling in the wind earlier this year and some of those refuted teams are finally finding new homes.

After all the hoopla; all the secret meetings behind closed doors; and teams defecting from all colors of the Mega, Romulus, Belleville and Dearborn Heights Robichaud finally found a new home.

The three wayward schools will join other former Mega teams Dearborn, Fordson, Edsel Ford, Thurston, Redford Union, Crestwood, Annapolis and Garden City in the newly formed Western Wayne Athletic

The Van Buren school board approved the resolution to join the new conference on Monday, Dec. 8 while Romulus school board members accepted the invitation to join on Monday, Nov. 24.

"It's a big relief," said Romulus Athletic Director Mark Woodson. "It's a big relief for me and the coaches to be in a conference."

The addition of Romulus and Belleville to the WWAC would help take some of the contending power out of the heavily favored Dearborn schools' hands.

"It is a good group of schools with a lot of great programs," he said. "We are looking forward to some really good competition."

ROMULUS HOUSING COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE

The Romulus Housing Commission, 34200 Beverly Road, Romulus, Michigan is now accepting applications for public housing occupancy to replenish the waiting list for the 4 and 5 bedroom single family homes. Regular office hours are Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, please call (734) 729-5389.

Publish: December 18, 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE EQ RESOURCE RECOVERY, INC DRAFT HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE MAJOR MODIFICATION MID 060 975 844

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) hereby gives notice of their intent to issue a state hazardous waste operating license major modification pursuant to Part 111, Hazardous Waste Management, of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended to EQ Resource Recovery, Inc. (EQRRI). In July 2006, EQRRI submitted an application to the MDEQ for an operating license major modification.

EQRRI operates a hazardous waste recycling, treatment, and storage facility at their site located at 36345 Van Born Road in Romulus, Michigan (Facility). The hazardous waste operations were destroyed in a fire on August 9, 2005. The proposed major modification is to reconstruct the hazardous waste operations at the Facility in accordance with design plans and specifications reviewed by the MDEQ and to update the operating procedures to reflect the revised Facility.

The MDEQ proposes to issue the operating license major modification. The MDEQ believes they have conducted a thorough review of the application and requests public comment on the draft operating license major modification. The public comment period on the draft documents will begin on December 18, 2008, and end on February 17, 2009. A public hearing is scheduled for January 20, 2009, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Romulus City Hall located at 11111 Wayne Road in Romulus, Michigan. Commenters at the public hearing should register by 7:30 p.m. and submit two written copies of their comments to the MDEQ at the hearing, if possible. The public hearing location is accessible to disabled persons. To request accommodations for the deaf or copies of information in Braille, please contact Ms. Linda Leiter at 517-373-9875, at least two weeks prior to the hearing.

The MDEQ will consider and respond to all significant public comments received during the public comment period, including any comments received during the public hearing. After a final decision is made on the draft operating license major modification, the MDEQ will issue a written responsiveness summary, which responds to significant comments made during the public comment period and public hearing, and summarizes the changes to the draft license major modification and the reason for each change.

The administrative record for the draft Part 111 operating license major modification is on file at the MDEQ, Hazardous Waste and Materials Division Office, located at 525 West Allegan Street, Constitution Hall, Atrium North, in Lansing, Michigan 48999 (contact Mr. Peter Quackenbush at 517-373-7397). Copies of the draft Part 111 operating license major modification and fact sheet are also available for review at the MDEQ, Southeast Michigan District Office, located at 27700 Donald Court in Warren, Michigan (contact Mr. James Day at 586-753-3835); and the Romulus Library, located at 11121 South Wayne Road in Romulus, Michigan (contact Ms. Shelley Delano at 734-942-7589). In addition, portions of the modification are available on the MDEQ Web site located at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3312_4118_4240_4413-204800--,00.html.

Comments and requests regarding the draft Part 111 operating license major modification, requests to be placed on the Facility mailing list, and requests for information, including copies of the major modification and fact sheet, should be sent to Mr. Peter Quackenbush at the MDEQ's Lansing address above. Written comments concerning the major modification should include the name and address of the writer, a concise statement of the basis for the comments, and the supporting facts upon which the comments are based.

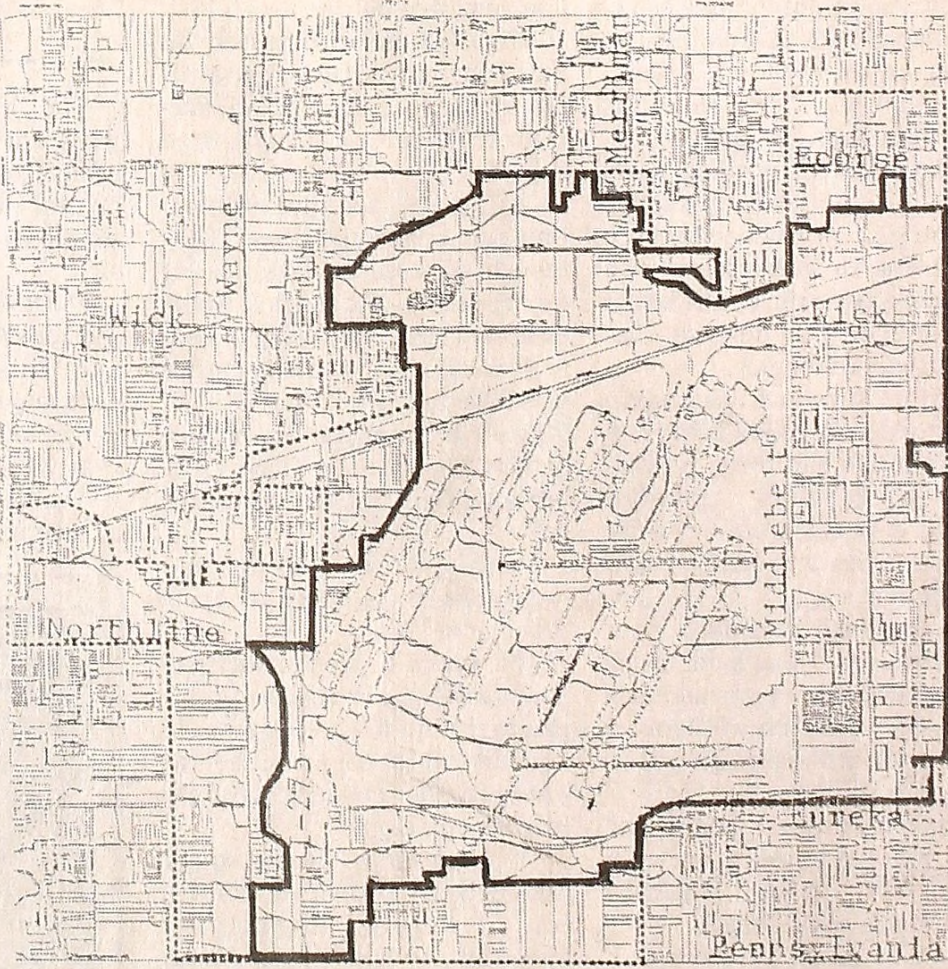
Publish: December 18, 2008

CITY OF ROMULUS COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO AMENDED AND RESTATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN (DISTRICT II) OF THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF ROMULUS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Romulus, Michigan, will hold a public hearing on Monday, the 5th day of January, 2009, at 6:45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time in the City Council Chambers, Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, to consider the adoption of a resolution approving amendments to the Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan (the "Amended and Restated Plan") for the Development Area designated as District II (the "Development Area") of the Tax Increment Finance Authority of the City of Romulus pursuant to Act 450, Public Acts of Michigan, 1980, as amended.

The boundaries of the Development Area to which the Amended and Restated Plan applies are generally as follows:



The proposed amendments update the scope of projects for the Development Area. Copies of the proposed Amended and Restated Plan, together with maps, plats, and other materials pertaining to the Amended and Restated Plan are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection, during regular business hours.

At the public hearing, all aspects of the Amended and Restated Plan will be open for discussion, and all interested persons desiring to address the City Council shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the Amended and Restated Plan for the Tax Increment Finance Authority of the City of Romulus.

FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained from the Economic Development Director of the City of Romulus.

THIS NOTICE is given by order of the City Council of the City of Romulus, Michigan.

LINDA R. CHOATE, CMC,
City Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: December 18, 2008

SPORTS

Improved Salem skaters start 3-3-2

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

No more struggles. That's what Salem's second-year hockey coach Ryan Ossenmacher hopes will happen this year. Salem hockey grappled with a 7-17-1 season last year but, with a deeper bench and 14 players returning, the Rocks are prepared to make their mark in a new conference in a new era of Salem hockey.

So far the Rocks are off to a great start, earning almost half of the wins in its' first eight games that they did in the entire 2007-08 campaign.

At 3-3-2 the team posted victories against Walled Lake Western and Grand Rapids Forest Hills North. More importantly their most recent outing-and largest measuring stick of how the team has improved-was a 3-2 victory over a tough Detroit Country Day squad on Thursday.

Salem knotted Bloomfield Hills United and cross-campus rival Canton that was undefeated at the time. Salem battled the Chiefs to a 2-2 tie in a three-overtime affair.

"There were over 400 people there," Ossenmacher said. "That's what high school hockey is all about-playing in front of big crowds like that. I'm happy with how we played that game. They are a good team and it was a good game for us."

The team's only losses were No. 2-ranked Northville, Livonia Stevenson, a top-10 team and Waterford Mott-a game they led 2-0 but lost 8-5.

"We just didn't play well at all in

that game," said Ossenmacher of the Mott contest.

The Rocks have a balanced squad of new and experienced players on the roster this season with nine seniors, eight juniors and eight sophomores.

Goalies Eric Fiorentino, a senior, and junior Andy Sensoli return this year. Senior Adam Powers left his travel team to join the group of net-minders this year.

Salem won't be short on firepower. Returning up front are senior forwards: David Russell, Nick Gennety, Patrick Patin and Sam Ott and junior Kurt Driscoll. Sophomore Ryan Quigley is back for a second year on the attack, too.

Ott was the leading scorer and Driscoll was the second leading scorer for Salem last year. Each has four goals as of Thursday.

"We're looking for them to do the same thing as last year," Ossenmacher said. "This year they have a lot more talent around them."

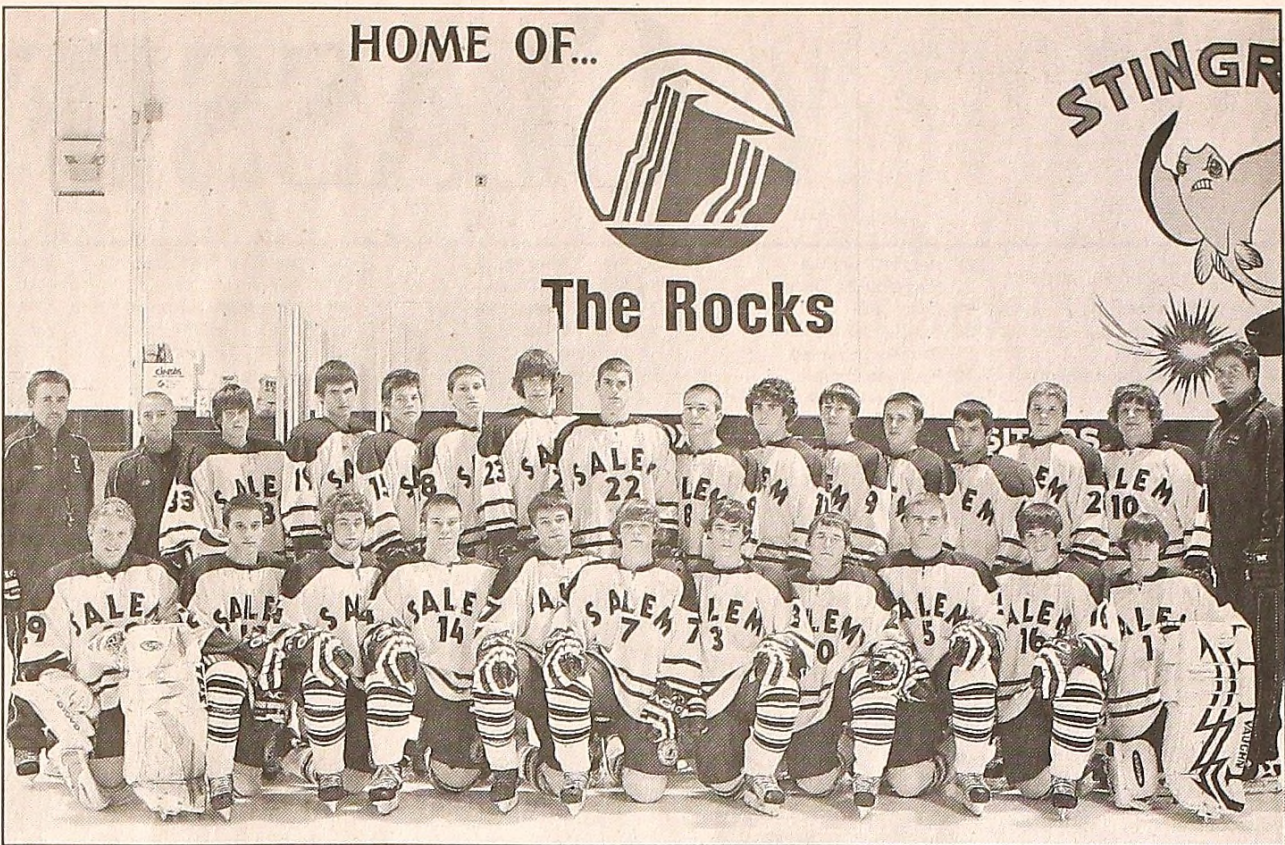
Ossenmacher considers Russel the team's best two-way player

Defense will be strong with seniors Keifer Fillinger, Kyle Zinc and Eddie Mazorowicz back for another year. Junior defenseman Steve Haburne and sophomore Michael Hochkins also return in the back.

Hochkins had as much playing time as a freshman last year as any upper classman, according to Ossenmacher.

Shawn Lyons joins the team as a senior forward with junior Josh Jervela, Mario Macari and four promising sophomores Garrett Berg, Matt Downey, Nick Hayes and Wesley Carr.

"Both Macari and Jarvela gave



The Salem Rock icers are more experienced and have set the bar height this year under second-year head coach Ryan Ossenmacher. The team was 3-3-2 at press time.

up travel play last year to play for us," Ossenmacher said. "They are quality players and will be a big help. It's nice this year because we have a lot of depth that we haven't had in the past."

Jarvela leads the team with nine points, consisting of three goals and a team-high six assists.

New defenders include juniors Ryan Blakely and Kenneth Novak and sophomore Max Coral.

"We have a good mix of players," Ossenmacher said. "We have 25 guys, which is more than in past years, and we dress 22 every game so there are three guys that have to sit out."

The Rocks' toughest loss was to Northville back on Nov. 25. Salem led 3-1 at one point before Northville stormed back for an 8-3 victory.

"I think our guys played like they were waiting to lose as opposed to playing to win," Ossenmacher said.

A good coach always as an eye

on the future and Salem might have pretty bright one with a possible 15 players to returning for next year.

But for this year the goals are simple-finish above .500 and to win at least one game in the state tournament.

"Anything less would be disappointing," Ossenmacher said. "That's something we haven't been able to do in the last five years. We have to try and stay positive when things don't go our way. We have the ability and talent to win, we just have to want to win."

Against Country Day, the Rocks found a way to battle back from a 2-0 deficit after two periods for a 3-2 victory on Thursday.

Salem outshot them, 28-12, but found themselves in 2-0 hole. In the final period Rock attackers peppered the opposing team with 14 more shots with three of them making good. Jarvela, Nick Hayes and Macari scored to notch the win for

Salem.

Powers earned the win in net, stopping all nine of Country Day's shots in the third. He improves to 2-1-1 on the year.

"Our team forecheck was executed with more precision during this game than in our previous two games, with each player doing their job and trusting their teammates to be in position for proper execution," Ossenmacher said. "In order for us to be successful, we have to be an aggressive team that plays with correct positioning and avoid chasing the puck all over the ice."

"This game was a step forward in our consistency, which is something we have been trying to work on this season," he added. "We have led in every game, but one this season, we are still learning how to finish off each game."

Salem hosts cross-campus rivals Plymouth at 8:30 pm on Friday at the Cultural Center.



Seasons Greetings

From all
of us at

THE JOURNAL
NEWSPAPERS
OF MICHIGAN L.L.C.

CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
& Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted

31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Health and Fitness
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Adult Care
46. Private Schools/Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables

50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and Office Equipment

64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Cleaning Services
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles

78. Hunting / Fishing
82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Real Estate
96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent

98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Flats for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property

110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

Malkowski, Marjorie M. December 11, 2008 age 83 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Heli. Dear mother of Heli L. (the late Patricia) and Craig B. (Roberta). Loving grandmother of Heli J., wendy (Del) Bancroft, Bryan (Stacey), Bret (Dawn) and Andrew. Great grandmother of Julie Bancroft, Alex Zack and Heli M. Malkowski. Instate Monday 9 am until 10 am service at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church 35320 Glenwood, Westland. Family will receive friends Saturday 2-9 pm and Sunday 12-9 pm at the UHT Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood. Please visit and post a note of condolence at www.uhtfh.com

Theresa J. Dennis
Passed away on November 26, 2008, Longtime resident of Plymouth, MI. Beloved Mother of Mike, Pat and Kelly, Sister of Carolyn, Grandmother to 4 grand-daughters. Memorial service will be held on Monday, December 29, 2008 at 11 am @ First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, #734-453-6464.

5. Announcements

Dressed to Impress
If single wear white
27440 Michigan Ave.,
Saturday, December 27th,
7pm-2am, Hospitality
House Cafe, #586-486-5650

30. Help Wanted

Wayne-Westland Community Schools
Position open as follows:
Registered Nurse with Associate's Degree in Nursing
Works under the direction of the School Nurse to provide services to Special Education students
Posting closes Jan. 8, 2009
EOE
Apply on-line at <http://wwwcsd.net>
or come to Human Resources

to access the online application system
Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette,
Westland, MI 48185

34. Specialized Services

TRUCK & TRAILER PARKING
Storage Trailers Available! Located @ Middlebelt & I-94
Larry or Dean
#734-946-7556

40. Business Opportunity

INCREASE YOUR INCOME
For more information listen to recorded message @ 712-432-1283 pin#408736. If you are interested in this Great Opportunity call Miss Kathy @ #313-791-8691.

59. Auctions

On December 31, 2008, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a Public Auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at J & T Towing and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1997 DODGE 4D
1B3ES47C5VD308659
1996 FORD 4D
1FALP52U1TG296735
1994 FORD 4D
1FARP15J5RW295929
1998 FORD 4D
3FAPP131WR179409
1995 CADILLAC 4D
1G6KD52B8SU295825
1987 PLYMOUTH 4D
1P3BP36DXHC183191
1994 BUICK 2D
2G4WF15L4R1450796

Upon completion, the auc-

tion will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born rd. Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1991 HONDA 2D
2HGED6347MH521909
1999 CHEVROLET 4D
1G1JF5248X7105167
1991 SUBARU 4D
4S4BJ65C7M7902648
1990 BUICK 4D
1G4HP54C1LH542614
1991 PLYMOUTH 4D
1P3XP28D6MN550311
1996 CHEVROLET 4D
2G1WN52M5T1183907
2004 STOUTON TRL
1DW1A53224B667121
1992 CHEVROLET 4D
2G1WN54TON9128371
1987 CHEVROLET 4D
1G1BU51HOHX135067
1995 HONDA 4D
1HGEG8651SL014012
1993 PONTIAC 4D
1G2NE5439PM518544
1995 FORD 4D
1FASP14JXSW238523
1992 BUICK 4D
1G4AG54NXN6434221

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC
Van Buren Township Clerk

VEHICLE PUBLIC AUCTION
The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction, on 12/31/2008 at 11 am at J and M Towing, 8964 Inkster Rd., MI 48174

1993 CADILLAC
1G6CD53BOP4228226
1990 WABASH
1JJV532U5ML153574
1995 STOUTON
1PTO2DAH959019456
1998 FORD
1FAPP4047WF1670063
1998 YAMAHA
3Y0-150629
1998 CHRYSLER
1B3EJ56LSWN245547

1994 DODGE
1B3AP68K8RN133230
1990 DODGE
1B7FL26X3LS700976
1997 PONTIAC
1G2NE12T5VM527346
2004 FORD
1FAFP44654F179916
1995 CHEVROLET
1GNEL19W3SB197724
CHEVROLET
1G8EK18H4EF151082
FORD
1FAPP36X7RK140408
FORD
1FALP6243SH150240
CADILLAC
1G6EL12Y7PU619335

61. Misc. Items

NEW QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC PILLOWTOP
Mattress & Box Set
\$150
w/warranty
New in Plastic
Can Deliver
734-326-2744

SOFA & LOVESEAT SET
NEW in plastic & crate.
Full Warranty
\$450

NEW 5 Pc. Cherry Bedroom Suite
All brand NEW in boxes
\$395

Must Sell
Can Deliver
(734) 637-2012

87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres
Motel, low daily and weekly rates.
Refrigerator, microwave, Cable TV.
Call 734-721-1220
Tel-96 Inn
313-535-4100
Fairlane in Novi
248-347-9999
Days Inn/Sunrise Motel
734-427-1300

Need extra help?
Advertise in our classified help wanted section.
Call
734-467-1900.
TODAY!

88. Duplexes For Rent

NEW LOWER RENTS! Winter Utility Allowance! WESTLAND-NORWAYNE
Call for list of clean, renovated 2 & 3 BR duplexes. Section 8 welcome City Inspected Lead Paint safe. Some pets permitted. Flexible move-in cost. No application fee. Most credit accepted. Professional local full-time management and service. Office at 2365 S. Venoy. Norplex Associates
734-722-6444
EHO

89. Apartments For Rent

OAKLAND MANOR APARTMENTS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, * ONLY ONE LEFT *
Large One Bedrooms, Starting at \$495/mo., No Sec. Dep. (per credit report), No Application Fee, Some restrictions apply.
Call #313-920-966 (24hrs.), or #734-444-5185, #734-444-5212

WAYNE
Near Wayne Road
Quiet and clean 1 BR
Heat and water inc.
Ideal for singles and retirees.
No Pets
\$450 moves you in with approved credit
Sec. 8 welcome
313-247-2075

Wayne - 2 Bedroom Fireplace, Garage \$550/ MO + Security Deposit.
Call #734-487-1273

Wayne Rd. & Mich. Ave.
area, From \$400 per month
Free heat, electric and water.
35641 Brush St.,
Next To Kroger in Downtown Wayne
Call 734-890-2033

WAYNE, MI
Quiet 1 Bedrm.
Well maintained
Heat/water/A/C inc.
No pets
Great for singles & retirees
\$490/month
Call a manager @
734-729-2108 or
734-718-9521 or owner @
734-718-3562

96. Houses For Rent

INKSTER
3 Bedroom Ranch w/
2 car garage, A/C,
Newly decorated!
\$875/month + security dep.
call #734-266-8220 or
#734-765-4455.

Inkster
Newly decorated 3 bedroom, appliances included. \$700/month plus security deposit. section 8 accepted. Call #734-641-2009

ROMULUS
4 Bedroom, 2 full baths,
new carpet, basement, large
fenced yard! \$900/ month,
Section 8 accepted.
#517-803-9229.

Call 734-467-1900
to place your
classified ad.

Westland
Small home w/ Garage
\$650/ a month + Security
No pets please.
#734-728-4142 or
#517-712-7037

105. Mobile Homes for Sale

CANTON
Owner financed
2&3 BR Mobile Homes
as low as \$100/mo.
plus lot rental
Call Jim:
313-277-1907

118. Freebies

Used Office Furniture FREE You Pick Up Call 734-467-1900

SAVE 50% OFF YOUR NEXT HEATING BILL!

One Time Only Factory Direct Sale, Call Today!
AS SEEN AND HEARD ON POPULAR TV AND RADIO PROGRAMS
iHeater Quartz Infrared Portable Heater
IH1000
* Safely and efficiently heats wall to wall for Pennies a day!
* Heats up to 1000 Sq. Ft. for \$1/Day
* Lifetime Air Filter
* Factory Warranty
* Safe for kids and pets
* Cannot start fires
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* Slash your heating bill up to 50%
REG. PRICE \$379
NOW ONLY \$279
ONLY \$279 and FREE Shipping (white supplies cost)
Call Now to order 1-800-469-0456
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Place your 2x2 display ad and reach over 3.5 million readers for just \$999! Place a 25-word classified ad and reach over 4 million readers for just \$299! Contact this newspaper or Michigan Press Association.
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Lansing, MI 48906-5199
Phone: 517.372.2424
Fax: 517.372.2429
MichiganPress.org
Mi-Dan@michiganpress.org

Man Tries Out For Pro Team

After Using Thera-Gesic®

BEXAR COUNTY- After applying Thera-Gesic to his sore right knee, Tom W. tried out for his favorite basketball team. When asked why a 5'9" older man could possibly think he would make the team, he painlessly replied: "None of your dang business!"



Go Tom Go

Go painlessly with Thera-Gesic®

34. Specialized Services

BRATCHER ELECTRIC

COMPLETE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SINCE 1956
Remodeling • Service • City Repairs
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Harold Rediske II, Robert J. Gilbert,
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JAMES H. PENN & SON
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Inkster, MI 48141
313-278-6300

HELP WANTED

WE ARE LOOKING FOR TALENTED INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Send your resume via; Fax, E-Mail, or U.S. Mail Along with a cover letter to:

The Journal Newspapers
Att: General Manager
35540 Michigan Ave.
Wayne, MI 48184

Fax: (734) 729-1840 – Email: srhaesa@journalgroup.com
or for more information call Sean Rhaesa at 734-467-1900.

EXPERIENCE A PLUS...ENTHUSIASM A MUST!

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Business and Service Directory

Auto Salvage

A-1 Auto Salvage & Scrap
We Buy Scrap Metal & Junk Cars
Ferrous & Non-Ferrous
Cert. State Truck Scale
Pick-up or Drop-off
2574 State
Ypsilanti, MI
(734) 483-0901

Cleaning Service

Too Busy? Too Tired?
Just Don't Feel like doing it?
Then Angela will do it for you!

Everything from
House Cleaning, Chores,
& Running Errands
CHEAP! CHEAP! CHEAP!
Call Today!
Angela's
Cleaning Service
734-796-0481



Counseling Services

Motivational Empowerment Counseling Center & Assoc.

- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Substance Abuse Classes
- Mental Health Treatment
- DLAD Assessment
- Anger Management
- Domestic Violence

Handyman



On time. Done right.*
734-451-9888
America's #1 Handyman
Small to medium size projects
and "Honey do items"
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"Movers Who Care."



Boxes, Packaging Supplies and Packaging Services for your Home or Business Move
Free Estimates
On Time Arrival
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to place your

Business

and Service

Directory ad.

ATTENTION: DEVELOPERS AND INVESTORS!
INVEST IN WAYNE COUNTY AND WAYNE COUNTY WILL INVEST IN YOU



WE HAVE
\$25.9 million
NSP

NEIGHBORHOOD
STABILIZATION
PROGRAM

WAYNE COUNTY'S NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM IS GIVING MONEY TO DEVELOPERS WITH THE BEST REDEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

WE WANT TO EMPOWER INVESTORS TO ACQUIRE, REHABILITATE AND/OR DEMOLISH ABANDONED, OR FORECLOSED PROPERTIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

OUR FIRST SEMINAR WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY JANUARY 13** 9:30AM
15100 NORTHLINE RD. SOUTHGATE MI. 48195

Sponsored by **Robert A. Ficano, Wayne County Executive**
Funded by HUD



WWW.WAYNECOUNTY.COM/NSP 313.224.6655

New Family Traditions

"Christmas Splash" at the RAC

Christmas Splash Brunch Buffet Menu

Regular and Decaf Coffee Service
Assorted Muffins and Danish
Assorted Bagels with Butter & Cream Cheese
Scrambled Eggs
Cheddar Cheese Hash Browns
Pork Sausage Patties
Fried Chicken (Bone-In)
Sliced Roast Beef with Au Jus
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Homemade Macaroni and Cheese with Crumbled Bacon
California Blend Vegetable Medley
Assorted Dinner Rolls with Butter
Chocolate Chip Cookies & Fudge Brownies

Prices

RAC Members
\$15 per person
Non-members
\$18 per person*
Children 12 and Under
\$12 RAC Members, \$15 Non-Members
Children 2 and Under are Free
Please let us know if you will need a high chair!

*There is an additional \$5 per child charge for non-members to participate in the Christmas Splash Festivities.

Bring the whole family and join us for our 1st Annual "Christmas Splash" Buffet Brunch including a fun-filled afternoon with Santa, on Sunday, December 21st!

- Brunch: 10:30am-2:30pm
- Games and Crafts: 12:00pm-4:00pm
- Photos with Santa(\$5.00): 1:30pm-3:30pm

Bring a new pair of mittens for our "Mitten Tree" and receive a FREE photo with Santa!



Donate a new unwrapped toy for the Romulus Goodfellows and you will be entered into our raffle!

Please R.S.V.P. at 734.942.2223 by December 19th

Bring your bathing suit — games will be in the pools too!



Members Coffee Social!



Attention all Romulus Athletic Center members...please join us on the first Saturday of every month for a cup of Joe and a muffin! Chat with a personal trainer and learn all about the great amenities available to you as part of your RAC membership!

WHO:
All RAC members

WHAT:
Free coffee social to network and learn about your membership benefits

WHEN:
The first Saturday of every month, from 7:00 am – noon

CAMP SNOW MUCH FUN!

Activities Will Include:

- ★ Educational Lessons on Basic Aid Training (BAT),
- ★ Fire Truck and Fire Safety With Our Romulus Fire Department.
- ★ Swimming, Self-Defense, Rock Wall and Fitness Games.
- ★ Make Crafts.
- ★ Prepare Snacks.
- ★ Gymnasium Games, and more!

Pre-Registration is required. In person or online! Ages: 8 – 12
Camps Fee: Member\$75.00/Non-Member \$85.00

* There will be an additional fee incurred of \$10 for every 15 minutes for late pick-ups of your children.

Registration Deadline
Camp 1 December 19, 2008
Camp 2 December 26, 2008

CAMP 1		
DATE	DAY	TIME
12/22/2008	MON.	8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
12/23/2008	TUES.	8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
12/24/2008	WED.	8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
CAMP 2		
DATE	DAY	TIME
12/29/2008	MON.	8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
12/30/2008	TUES.	8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
12/31/2008	WED.	8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Romulus
RAC Athletic
Center

35765 Northline Road
Romulus, MI 48174
734.942.2223

www.RomulusAthleticCenter.com

